

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A laser microdissection instrument, comprising:
  - a microscope having an optical path;
  - a laser coupled to the microscope; the laser having a beam path;
  - a translation stage for receiving a sample; the translation stage being coupled to the microscope;
  - a joystick connected to the translation stage; the joystick being configured to reduce a scalar movement defined by an operator and having a leverage ratio to control sample movement as a function of operator hand movement.
23. (New) The laser microdissection instrument of claim 22 wherein the joystick further includes a handle, a first spherical mounting, a first bracket, a second spherical mounting, and a second bracket; the translation stage is connected to the first spherical mounting via the first bracket; the first spherical mounting is connected to the handle via the second spherical mounting in the second static bracket; and the handle includes a bottom end.
24. (New) The laser microdissection instrument of claim 23 wherein the distance between the first spherical mounting and the second spherical mounting is less than the distance between the second spherical mounting and the bottom end of the handle.
25. (New) The laser microdissection instrument of claim 22 wherein moving said sample and said translation stage with said manual joystick includes simultaneous X and Y movement.

26. (New) The laser microdissection instrument of claim 22 wherein the leverage ratio is less than 1/5.

27. (New) The laser microdissection instrument of claim 22 wherein the leverage ratio is less than 1/7.

28. (New) A laser microdissection instrument, comprising:  
a microscope having an optical path;  
a laser coupled to the microscope; the laser having a beam path;  
a translation stage for receiving a sample; the translation stage being coupled to the microscope;  
a manual joystick connected to the translation stage.